

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11854 151649Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7301
DOE WASHDC
DOE GERMANTOWN
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 11854

USEEC

DOE FOR VANDERRYN (IA), C. KUHLMAN AND A. PERGE (ET)

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EEC
SUBJECT: U.S.-EC ENERGY R&D COOPERATION - RADIOACTIVE
- WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. A GREEN LIGHT HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN BY THE EC STEERING COMMITTEE ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE R&D TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. ON COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD. THIS INFORMAL APPROVAL CLEARS THE WAY FOR THE COMMISSION (VIZ., SERGE ORLOWSKI, DG XII) TO PROCEED WITH MORE SERIOUS AND SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS WITH DOE TO INITIATE A COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT.

2. ORLOWSKI'S GENERAL PLAN IS TO SEND A LETTER TO A. PERGE, DOE, INFORMING HIM OF THE CLEARANCE AND PROPOSING EARLY DISCUSSIONS TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR COOPERATION AND TO DEVELOP THE ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISM FOR PUTTING THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 11854 151649Z

COOPERATION INTO EFFECT. HIS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT AT LEAST A DRAFT OF A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER.

3. THE STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE TOPICS FOR COOPERATION BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THE FIVE RATHER BROADLY DEFINED TOPICS AGREED TO AT THE MARCH 16-17 MEETING IN

WASHINGTON BETWEEN PERGE AND ORLOWSKI, ET AL. THE COMMITTEE DID, INCIDENTALLY, APPROVE THOSE FIVE TOPICS, INCLUDING, TO ORLOWSKI'S SURPRISE, THE ONE DEALING WITH VITRIFICATION (HE EXPECTED A FRENCH VETO ON THIS ONE). THE COMMITTEE ALSO INSISTED THAT COOPERATION IN THIS AREA BE KEPT FREE FROM POLITICAL OVERTONES AND STAY FOCUSSED ON SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. AS AN EXAMPLE, ORLOWSKI SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT TRY TO PURSUE REPROCESSING WASTES AS A TOPIC, AND WOULD NOT CARE TO GET INVOLVED IN SPENT FUEL STORAGE AS A TOPIC.

4. AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR ONE OF THE MORE SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE COOPERATION COULD BE INITIATED, DOE REP PURPLE GAVE ORLOWSKI SOME TECHNICAL REPORTS ON KRYPTON STORAGE PROVIDED TO HIM RECENTLY BY J. DEMPSEY, DOE. ORLOWSKI AGREED THAT WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE UNDER THE MORE GENERAL TOPIC OF MANAGEMENT OF GASEOUS WASTE, AND AGREED TO FURNISH EC PROGRAMMATIC INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC FOR TRANSMITTAL TO DOE.

5. REGARDING THE MODALITIES OF A POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE UNDERTAKING, ORLOWSKI SAID THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE STRONGLY ENDORSED THE PRESENT U.S.-EC THINKING THAT THE SIMPLER AND LESS FORMAL THE MECHANISM IS THE QUICKER AND MORE EFFECTIVE WILL BE THE COOPERATION. PURPLE SUGGESTED AN APPROACH SIMILAR TO THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH ACCOM-

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 11854 151649Z

PANYING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT WAS SUCCESSFULLY USED FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN AN EC WORKING GROUP ON FAST REACTOR SAFETY. ORLOWSKI SAID THAT THIS WAS THE LEADING CANDIDATE METHOD SO FAR IN INTERNAL EC STAFF DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WAS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED WITH ORLOWSKI. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT, BASED ON THE DIFFICULTIES IN THIS AREA IN THE IEA IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT, THIS PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED. THE COMMISSION HAS SET UP A SMALL WORKING GROUP TO FOCUS ON IT. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT CONTZEN AND LANNON ARE IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK TO MEET WITH BRUSH, DOE, IN AN EFFORT TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THE EXISTING IEA PROBLEM. HOPEFULLY, WHATEVER SOLUTION SOLVES THE IEA PROBLEM WILL BE EXTENDABLE TO A U.S.-EC BILATERAL COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT.

7. ON THE QUESTION OF A BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT VERSUS A MULTINATIONAL UNDERTAKING UNDER IEA/NEA, ORLOWSKI NOTED THAT THE RECORD TO DATE IN TRYING TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT MAKES THE IEA/NEA APPROACH OF DUBIOUS VALUE. HE SAID THAT THE MEM-

BERS OF EC RADIOWASTE STEERING COMMITTEE, IN ITS RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE U.S.-EC COOPERATION, WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO LETTING SUCH COOPERATION GROW INTO A CUMBERSOME, INEFFECTIVE, MULTINATIONAL PROGRAM. THEY PREFERRED, HE SAID, THE SIMPLEST POSSIBLE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH COULD MOST QUICKLY BRING TOGETHER THE WORKING-LEVEL PEOPLE OF BOTH SIDES. (COMMENT: WHILE RECOGNIZING OUR GENERAL POLICY OF LOOKING FIRST TO THE IEA FOR NEW COOPERATIVE UNCLASSIFIED

VENTURES, WE SUGGEST THAT THESE STRONG EC FEELINGS BE ACCEPTED AND PROCEED ON THE IDEA OF A BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT. ONCE SUCCESSFULLY INITIATED AND WORKING WELL, WE COULD CONSIDER FOLDING THE PROGRAM IN TO A FUTURE IEA/NEA PROJECT, OR LETTING THE PROGRAM SERVE AS A CATALYST FOR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRUSSE 11854 151649Z

BROADER PARTICIPATION THROUGH THE IEA/NEA.) HINTON

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NNN

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